

The Real McCoy®

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OCTOBER 28, 2011

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COMMANDER'S TOWN HALL ADDRESSES ACOE PROGRAM

Seeking continuous process improvements, along with a work force dedicated to providing quality customer service, will help Fort McCoy position itself as a valuable asset to the Department of Defense in the years to come, said Garrison Commander Col. David E. Chesser.
([Story](#), [photo](#).)



181ST INFANTRY BRIGADE WELCOMES 1ST, 310TH INFANTRY

Although deploying units no longer may be rotating through Fort McCoy for their mobilization training, trainers from the 181st Infantry Brigade continue to play a significant role in preparing Soldiers and units for deployment.
([Story](#), [photos](#).)



GUARD CELEBRATES OPENING OF RESILIENCE UNIVERSITY

The celebration was ceremonial, but the reason for the celebration was significant. The Oct. 17 ceremony represented the symbolic opening of the Guard Resilience University to all members of the Army National Guard.
([Story](#), [photo](#).)



PROJECTS POSITION LODGING TO BETTER SERVE CUSTOMERS

Remodeling projects at the Fort McCoy Lodging facility in building 51 are better positioning the organization to serve its customers in the post-mobilization/demobilization era at Fort McCoy
([Story](#), [photo](#).)

AUDIE MURPHY CLUB INDUCTS NCO ACADEMY INSTRUCTOR

An instructor at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer



Academy has become the first Soldier at the installation to be selected for membership into the re-instituted Army Reserve Sergeant Major Audie Murphy Club at Fort McCoy. ([Story](#), [photo](#).)

ADDITIONAL NEWS:

- [FORT McCOY PUBLIC WEBSITE GETS NEW LOOK](#)
- [SPOTLIGHT — MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING COMMAND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING OFFICE](#)
- [RTS-MAINTENANCE TO OFFER EXPANDED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES](#)
- [ENGINEER UNIT ADDS NEW SIDEWALK FOR YOUTH TO USE AT FORT McCOY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER](#)
- [QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSES SAFETY TOPICS, TRENDS, OPPORTUNITIES](#)
- [DISABILITY SPEAKER: ALL DISABLED WORKERS WANT IS A CHANCE TO WORK](#)
- [FORT McCOY TEAM FINISHES 3RD IN ARMY RESERVE MIXED CATEGORY AT ARMY TEN-MILER COMPETITION OCT. 9](#)
- [PROGRAM HELPS INTEGRATE PEOPLE MOVING TO McCOY](#)
- [ABOUT POST — PHOTOS OF INSTALLATION LIFE](#)
- [FORT McCOY EXCHANGE UNWRAPS HOLIDAY GIFT, EXCHANGE POLICY, EXTENDED HASSLE-FREE RETURNS OFFERED](#)
- [IMCOM ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN UPDATE: PROGRESS ON TOP PRIORITIES, NEW PROCESS REQUIREMENTS](#)

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Flu shots available Nov. 1-3

Tim Sullivan, a registered nurse with the Fort McCoy Occupational Health Clinic (OHC) administers a flu immunization to Lisa Perry, Directorate of Human Resources, during a flu immunization clinic at Fort McCoy.

Flu immunization clinics for Department of Defense civilian personnel will be held Nov. 1-3 from 1-3 p.m. at the OHC, building 1679.

Personnel must have their Common Access Card to receive the vaccination. No appointment is necessary.

The Adult Screening and Immunization Documentation Form must be completed prior to the vaccination. The form is available on the Fort McCoy Corporate Network or at the OHC. For more information, call the OHC at 608-388-3209.



Photo by Rob Schuette

Combined Federal Campaign continues through Nov. 23 [[back to top](#)]

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) at Fort McCoy is under way until Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The CFC provides federal employees and servicemembers the opportunity to donate to a pre-screened charitable organization. Campaign brochures and pledge cards are available through CFC representatives at Fort McCoy.

For more information, call the Fort McCoy CFC chairperson, Nilda Windom, at 608-388-4842 or e-mail Nilda.windom.civ@mail.mil.

ACS and CYS Services celebrate military Families in November [[back to top](#)]

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. In celebration of the month, Army Community Service (ACS) will offer a goody bag for Families in the Fort McCoy community. The bags can be picked up at the ACS Center, building 2111, from Nov. 1-23. For more information, call 608-388-3505.

Child Youth and School (CYS) Services also will hold a Family Fun Night for all Families enrolled in CYS Services programs Wednesday, Nov. 16. The Child Development Center Fall Fest will be held Fridays Nov. 4 and 18. For more information about these events, call CYS Services at 608-388-2238.

Acts of Kindness activity begins in November [[back to top](#)]

Family Focus Acts of Kindness runs from November through December.

Families in the Fort McCoy Family Focus program can visit the Army Community Service (ACS) Center, building 2111, to receive a Recipes for Kindness idea book and record sheets.

Families will record their acts of kindness for any 15 days in November and 15 days in December. All record sheets must be returned to ACS by Jan. 13, 2012. Family Focus points will be awarded.

For more information or to register in the Family Focus program, call ACS at 608-388-3505.

Native American Month observance Nov. 3 at McCoy's [[back to top](#)]

held Thursday, Nov. 3 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at McCoy's, building 1571. The guest-speaker presentation begins at noon.

The guest speaker is Scott Zaehler, who is the program manager for the Fort McCoy Army Substance Abuse Program.

For more information, call the Fort McCoy Equal Opportunity Advisor at 608-388-3246.

Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 6; Turn clocks back 1 hour [[back to top](#)]

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 a.m.

At Fort McCoy, Central Standard Time begins on this day.

People are encouraged to turn their clocks back one hour the evening of Saturday, Nov. 5 in preparation.

This date also is a good time for people to check the operability of their smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers.

For more information about fire safety in the Fort McCoy community, call 608-388-4077.

Care Team training offered Nov. 7 at ACS [[back to top](#)]

Care Team training is being held Nov. 7 from 8-10 a.m. at the Army Community Service (ACS) Center, building 2111.

Care Teams are activated by commanders when a casualty occurs within their unit to offer support to the affected Family.

The training will assist commands in recruiting volunteers, as well as educating current and potential volunteers on the roles and responsibilities associated with belonging to a Care Team.

Register by Nov. 3, by calling ACS at 608-388-3505.

Veterans Day prayer luncheon set for Nov. 9 at McCoy's [[back to top](#)]

The Religious Support Office (RSO) is hosting a Veterans Day prayer luncheon Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at building 905.

Music, a guest speaker presentation and testimonies from veterans will be featured during the event.

The first 100 personnel in the Fort McCoy community to contact the RSO will receive a ticket for a free lunch.

The Fort McCoy History Center, building 902, will be open immediately after the event until 2 p.m.

For more information or a ticket, call 608-388-3528, or visit building 2675.

Dodgeball tournament Nov. 9 at the Rumpel Fitness Center [[back to top](#)]

A dodgeball tournament will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 5:15 p.m. at the Rumpel Fitness Center, building 1122.

Teams can register for the five-on-five tournament at the fitness center or by calling 608-388-2290.

The registration deadline is 4:45 p.m. the day of the event.

Lunch & Learn classes offered in November on South Post [[back to top](#)]

The Army Family Team Building program will offer three Brown Bag Lunch & Learn classes in November. The classes are held Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the South Post Community Center, building 6158.

The classes are Problem Solving Skills for the Workplace Nov. 9, Family Financial Readiness Nov. 16 and Meeting Management Nov. 30.

Register no later than the Friday prior to each class by calling Army Community Service at 608-388-3505. Attendees must provide their own lunch.

Parenting workshop offered at ACS in November [[back to top](#)]

A Parenting with Love & Logic workshop is being offered at the Army Community Service Center, building 2111.

Modules 1-4 will be held Nov. 15 from noon-4 p.m. and modules 5-7 will be held Nov. 29 from noon-4 p.m.

Through simple and practical techniques, the workshop aims to put the fun back into parenting and helps parents raise children who are self-confident, motivated and ready for the real world. Love and Logic is a philosophy founded in 1977 by Jim Fay and Foster W. Cline, M.D. It is the approach of choice among leading educators, parents, and other professionals worldwide.

For more information or to register, call 608-388-3505. Registration must be completed by Nov. 8.

Central Issue Facility now closed Tuesdays, Wednesday [[back to top](#)]

The Central Issue Facility, building 2142 has new operating hours. The facility is open Thursday-Monday 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. It is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

For more information, call 608-388-3876.

Rifle sight-in clinic Nov. 12 at Sportsman's Range [[back to top](#)]

A Rifle Sight-In Clinic will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Fort McCoy Sportsman's Range.

The clinic is open to authorized patrons and invited guests. Staff will be available to assist participants prepare for the upcoming fall hunts. Use of the range will be free that day.

For more information about Sportsman's Range, call 608-388-3517 or 1-800-531-4703.

Legal notice [[back to top](#)]

Anyone having claims against the estate of Spc. Dennis G. Jensen, 200th Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, or knowing of assets belonging to Jensen should contact the Summary Court Martial Officer, Capt. Lionel Gonzalez, at 608-388-7321 or lionel.a.gonzalez.mil@mail.mil.

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Facility Hours

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Notes:

- *This schedule is projected through Nov. 11, 2011.*
Hours in **red type** denote new hours since the last update.
- **Most facilities will be closed Fri., Nov. 11 unless noted otherwise, for the Veterans Day holiday. Call to verify hours.**
- Access to Fort McCoy currently is limited. Hours may change at all facilities to meet operational requirements. Please call facilities to verify hours and accessibility before visiting.

Recreation [\[back to top\]](#)

Automotive Skills Center: Building 1763. Open Mon., Thurs., and Fri. 1-9 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-3013.

Community Activity Center (CAC): Building 2000. Leisure Travel Services Office. Recreation Center, and Library: Open daily 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 608-388-3213/2410/4353.

McCoy’s: Building 1571. Bowling Center open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 4-10 p.m. Extreme bowling every Fri. 4-9 p.m. Call 608-388-7060. Arcade and NTN trivia. Call 608-388-2065.

Pine View Campground/Equipment Checkout Center: Building 8053. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-2619/3517.

Rumpel Fitness Center: Building 1122. Open Mon.-Fri. 5 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 5 a.m.-8 p.m. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 8 a.m.-4 p.m.** Sauna and Steamroom: Open Mon.-Fri., 6 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Indoor swimming pool: Open Mon.-Fri. 6-8 a.m. and 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** Atrium: Open Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 608-388- 2290/2625.

Sportsman's Range: April-Oct. 31, open Mon., Thurs., Fri., 3-6 p.m.; Sat-Sun 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call Ext. 3517. May close early based on manager discretion. **Open Nov. 1-17, Mon., Thurs., Fri., 3-4:30 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Whitetail Ridge Ski Area: Skiing and Chalet: **Closed for the season.** Call 608-355-3517/4498.

Woodshop: Building 1133. Open Tues.-Thurs. 5-8 p.m. Call John Timm, 608-388-6598 for an appointment.

Dining [\[back to top\]](#)

McCoy’s: Building 1571. Primo’s Express - Open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. 4-8 p.m. and Sun. noon-8 p.m. (buffet Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.). Call 608-388-7673. Habañero - **Closed for the season.** Sports bar - Open Mon.-Sat. 4-11 p.m. and Sun. noon-11 p.m. ATM located inside. Catering/Admin. Call 608-388-2065. Manager has discretion on closing time. Call to verify hours.

Rustic Inn Snack Bar/Patio Cafe: Building 2000. Open Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Closed Sun. Call 608-388-4968.

Snack Avenue: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 5 a.m.- 9 p.m. and Sun. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or 608-388-4343. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Specialty Express Food Court: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 608-269-5615 Ext. 303. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Whitetail Ridge Chalet: Building 8061. Adult lounge and outdoor deck. Available for private parties. For information, call 608-388-2065. **Closed for the season.**

Services [\[back to top \]](#)

Alteration Shop: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-269-1075. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Barber Shop (Building 51): Room 136. Open Mon., Tues.-Thurs. 4-7 p.m. ATM located in the lobby. Call 608-269-1710 to verify hours.

Barber Shop (Exchange): Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-269-1710.

Barber Shop (overflow): Building 2662. Open Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 608-388-3682.

Beauty Salon: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **by appointment only.** Call 608-269-1710.

Car Rental (Hertz): Information available at Exchange office, Building 1538. Use yellow phone at Hertz sign. Call 608-782-6183 or 1-800-654-3131 and provide the following number: CDP# 1787245.

Car Wash: Building 1568. Self-service and automatic bays. Open 24 hours. Change and token machines. Call 608-388-3213/4161.

Commissary: Building 1537. Open Tues.-Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Early Bird/Self Check out open Tues. - Sat. 9-10 a.m. Call 608-388-3542/3543.

CWT (Carlson Wagonlit Travel) SatoTravel: Building 2180. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 608-388-2370, or 608-269-4560, or 1-800-927-6343.

Education/Learning Center: Building 50, Room 123. Open Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call Ext. 7311.

Exchange: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.- 8 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. ATM located inside. Call 608-269-5574, Ext. 101 or 608-388-4343.

Fort McCoy Shipping & Services Center: Building 1649. Call 608-269-6969.

Launderette/Dry Cleaning: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-1075 to verify hours of operation. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Laundry Facilities: Buildings 1132, 1444, 1649, 1701, 2568, 2662, 2763 and 2877. Open to Soldiers and their dependents and to Fort McCoy military training population on 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis. Call 608-388-3800 (Troop and Installation Support Branch, Building 490) for information.

Lodging: Located in the dormitory lobby of building 51. Open daily 24 hours. For more information call 608-388-2107.

Military Clothing Sales: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.- 8 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 608-269-5574, Ext. 203. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Mobilizing Unit In-processing Center (MUIC): Building 2541. Hours for Building 2541 and MUIC LOG Offices are Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. During the hours the MUIC LOG offices are closed assistance may be obtained by calling 608-388-2150.

Permit Sales: Building 2168. Open weekdays 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 608-388-3337.

Post Office: Building 1649. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 608-388-3825/4222.

Quartermaster Tactical Gear Store: Building 1645. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 608-269-1730.

RIA Credit Union: Building 2105. Open Mon.-Wed. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. ATMs are located in McCoy’s, Building 1571, the Exchange, Building 1538, and the 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) dormitory lobby, Building 51 (24/7). Call 608-388-2171.

RV Storage Lot: Next to Building 1763. Short- or long-term storage. Fees charged. Authorized patrons only. Call 608-388-2619/3517.

Service Station/Shoppette/Class VI:: Building 1538. Open Mon.-Sat. 5 a.m.- 9 p.m. and Sun. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 608-269-5604 or Ext. 4343. GAS PAY AT THE PUMP OPEN 24 HOURS. ATM located inside. Cash transactions available during Shoppette and Main Store hours. **Open Fri., Nov. 11 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Shoppette (West Side Express): Building 2662. Open Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m. **Closed for the season.**

Vehicle Registration: Located in the Welcome Center, Building 35. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (excluding federal holidays). For more information call 608-388-4988.

Worship [\[back to top \]](#)

Bible Study: Building 51, second floor lobby. Tues. 6:15-7 a.m. Call 608-388-3528.

Bible Study: Chapel Center, Building 2675. Wed. 7 p.m. Call 608-388-3528.

Catholic: Chapel 10, Building 1759. Mass, Sun. 9:30 a.m. Call 608-388-3528 for more information.

Christian Fellowship Bible Study with lunch: Fellowship Hall, building 2675 Wed., 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Call Ext. 3528.

Jewish: Service Sat. 10:20 a.m.-noon at La Crosse. Call 608-388-3528.

Latter-day Saints: Sun. 8 a.m. Fellowship Hall, Building 2675. Call Ext. 3528.

Mormon: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 702 E. Montgomery St., Sparta, Wis. Sunday services 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Phone 608-269-3377 for additional information.

Muslim: Islamic Center of La Crosse, Othman Bin Affan Mosque. Fri. Prayer 1-2 p.m. Call 608-388-3528.

Protestant: Chapel 1, Building 2672. Protestant Worship Sun. 9:30 a.m. Call 608-388-3528.

Spanish Language: Worship Services held in Norwalk (Catholic); Tomah (Seventh-Day Adventist). Call 608-388-3528.

For information about Chapel, including mobilization services, or worship schedules in the surrounding communities, call 608-388-3528. If you have an emergency, call 608-388-2266 and they will contact the on-call chaplain.

Family Support [\[back to top \]](#)

Army Community Service Center: Building 2111. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 608-388-3505.

Army Substance and Abuse Program: Building 1344. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 608-388-2441.

Child Development Center: Building 1747. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Call 608-388-3534 or 2238.

Red Cross: Fort McCoy active-duty Soldiers and their Family members can call 877-272-7337 for emergency assistance. For other Red Cross services, call 800-837-6313, 608-788-1000 or call the installation operator at 608-388-2222 and request Red Cross assistance.

School-Age Services: Building 1751. Activities for youths grades kindergarten through fifth. Offers after-school, nonschool and inclement-weather care for eligible youths. Open Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 608-388-. 4373/2238.

School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills ***Unlimited*** (SKIES ***Unlimited***): Building 1747. Provides instructional classes for children and youth from infancy through the end of their senior year in high school. Children and youth are provided opportunities to explore new skills, pursue and nurture personal interests and interact socially with others. Register for SKIES *Unlimited* classes at Parent Central Services. 608-388-8956.

Supplemental Programs and Services/Family Child Care: For occasional baby-sitting services or in-home care for Military Family Housing, call Fort McCoy Child Development Services at 608-388-4124.

Health Care [\[back to top \]](#)

Alcoholics Anonymous: For more information, call 608-388-5955/2441.

Dental Clinic: Building 2668. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sick call: 7:30-9:30 a.m. Call 608-388-2719.

Fort McCoy Civilian Employee Assistance Program: Provides screening and referral services for eligible civilian employees and their family members who are experiencing difficulty due to personal problems related to substance abuse, mental health, marital/family discord or other problems. For more information, contact the Army Substance Abuse Program at 608-388-2441/5955.

TRICARE Liaison: Building 1679. Call 608-388-2246/7879 for more information. The following also are points of contact: TRICARE Humana-Military, 1-877-TRICARE (874-2273) or <http://www.tricare.mil>.

Occupational Health Clinic: Building 1679. Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Blood-pressure screenings and military audiograms. Call 608-388-3209/2414.

Optical Services: Building 2656. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Providing permanent party Soldiers with all of their eye care needs. Call 608-388-5997.

Troop Medical Clinic: Building 2669. Sick call sign-in 7-8 a.m. Open weekdays 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for appointments. Call 608-388-3025. Pharmacy is 608-388-2842. Call 911 for after-hour emergencies. Call AOD 608-630-6308 for non-emergencies. For treatment, go to hospital emergency room.

Organizations [\[back to top \]](#)

American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1882: Building 1411. Office hours 7 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. Meets second Tues. of each month, 6 p.m., at American Legion Post 201 in Tomah. Call 608-388-2397.

American Society of Military Comptrollers: Meets several times throughout the year. Watch the Fort McCoy Bulletin for meeting details or call Maureen Richardson at 608-269-1912 or Mary Zink at 608-269-3115.

Association of the United States Army - AUSA (Robert B. McCoy Chapter): General membership meetings held monthly. For information call 608-272-3016.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS): Meets second Thursday of each month. Call 608-388-3944.

Friends & Spouses of Fort McCoy: Meets every third Thurs. at different locations. For information call 248-514-2880.

Patriot Warrior Riders: Meets the third Thurs. of each month at 5:30 p.m. at McCoy's, building 1571. Call President Command Sgt. Maj. William Bissonette at Ext. 3605 or Vice President Lt. Col. Stuart Graham at Ext. 0663.

Reserve Officers Association, Fort McCoy-Readiness 43: Call David W. Alderfer (LTC-Retired) at 920-535-0515 or e-mail dave.alderfer@us.army.mil.

United States Field Artillery Association: For information call 608-388-9969.

Warrant Officers Association, Chapter 0317: Call 608-372-7260, 612-210-7728 or 248-941-3551 for more information about the chapter.

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About The Real McCoy

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Safety

Severe Weather Announcements/Procedures

During any severe winter weather situation, a liberal leave policy will automatically be in effect. This policy affords supervisors and employees flexibility in addressing an individual request for leave or a work schedule adjustment due to weather, accommodating a late arrival, and/or an employee’s request for an early departure due to weather conditions. Annual leave may be requested and approved in 15-minute increments. If the Garrison Commander should deem that due to an extreme weather situation all post operations would need to be suspended during the duty day, then that announcement will be made via a command-approved, postwide e-mail communication, with employee notifications then disseminated through their supervisory channels. If such a decision were to be made outside of the normal duty day, then a Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office-authorized announcement will be released to the following local media outlets (television/radio stations):

WKBT (TV) CH 8
WEAU (TV) CH 13
WXOW (TV) CH 19

WTMB 94.5 FM
WWIS 99.77 FM
WIZM 93.3 FM

WCOW 97.1 FM
WAXX 104.5 FM

In addition, information regarding liberal leave/post closure can be obtained after duty hours by calling (608) 388-7777 or dialing toll-free 800-982-3585, extension 7777.



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News

Commander's town hall addresses ACOE program

Seeking continuous process improvements, along with a work force dedicated to providing quality customer service, will help Fort McCoy position itself as a valuable asset to the Department of Defense in the years to come, said Garrison Commander Col. David E. Chesser.

Chesser spoke to members of the garrison work force at an Oct. 6 Town Hall Briefing about the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) process, which includes completing the Campaign Plan Employee Assessment (CPEA) survey.

The survey is currently under way and will end Oct. 31. Chesser said garrison employees who have not yet taken the CPEA are urged to do so at their earliest convenience.

The meeting was one in a series Chesser is using to keep the work force informed about the installation's status.

Fort McCoy has a mature and effective management system that is used to plan and execute its assigned missions. The bottom line up-front is, "The Fort McCoy garrison is a well-led and managed organization," he said.

"We've entered a new fiscal year, and we've now entered the cycle for a new Army Communities of Excellence," he said. "It's our opportunity to tell Army leadership how well we do what we do here. It's our chance to tell our story."

Although the installation is always striving to get one of the top awards, Chesser noted the last two times the garrison received ACOE recognition in 2009 and 2011 it was in special categories. Since 1995, Fort McCoy has won six Department of the Army level ACOE awards.

"While we aim to win one of the top honors — gold, silver, or bronze, we won't earn recognition unless you help tell our story," he said.

Participation in the competition also helps the installation prove its value to the Department of Defense, possibly avoiding Base Realignment and Closure actions and helping secure the work force for the future.

The garrison's work force has earned a reputation for being ahead of the curve. Chesser said an example was when it needed to incorporate the Installation Management Campaign Plan (IMCP) into the garrison's recently updated Strategic Business Plan's (SBP) action plans.

A review of the garrison's SBP indicated that about 95 percent of the IMCP already was covered by the SBP, he said. "It was a great idea, but we beat them to the punch," Chesser said.

Chesser said Fort McCoy has been involved in strategic planning business for a very long time and that's why it's so good at what it does. "Our Strategic Business Plan includes the IMCP plus our own direction," he said.

The IMCP defines Installation Management Command's (IMCOM) strategic direction and aligns goals, objectives, and keys-to-success that move the organization forward in its support of Army Readiness.

The IMCP identifies the Lines of Effort (LOE), which are: Soldier, Family and Civilian Readiness; Soldier, Family and Civilian Well-Being; Leader and Work Force Development; Installation Readiness; Safety; and Energy and Water Efficiency and Security. Each LOE has a member of the Garrison Command Group leadership assigned as an LOE champion, he said. LOE champions help him, as the garrison commander, deploy the IMCP.



Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. David E. Chesser briefs members of the garrison work force about the process involved in the Army Communities of Excellence program. (Photo by Allan Harding)

The ACOE submission is due Nov. 4 at Headquarters, IMCOM. Chesser said it will include a garrison profile, which focuses on garrison efforts, to date, to implement the IMCP, and identifies and describes local successes.

The submission also will include a two-page commander’s narrative, which is a synopsis of why Fort McCoy should be considered an ACOE contender and presents an overview of the strengths and successes experienced at the garrison during the past year, he said.

Other milestone dates in the process are: February 2012 when ACOE results are expected to be announced; April 30, 2012, when CPEA results will be provided to the installation; and May 2012, the ACOE Award Ceremony.

“You (the Fort McCoy garrison) are an award-winning work force,” Chesser said. “The ACOE process is another means of telling your success story.”

The Oct. 6 town hall briefing was one of several strategic communication opportunities held by the garrison commander throughout the year. Others are the annual briefing to the work force (in the January-February time frame) and monthly town hall meetings with individual garrison organizations.

Chesser also holds an informal garrison commander’s call the first Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at McCoy’s, building 1571. The event is open to all tenants and directorates, military ranks and civilians where they can meet their peers and counterparts, and share ideas.

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News

181st Infantry Brigade transforms; welcomes 1st, 310th Infantry

Story & photos by Capt. Rob Lodewick, 181st Infantry Brigade Public Affairs Officer

Although deploying units no longer may be rotating through Fort McCoy for their mobilization training, trainers from the 181st Infantry Brigade continue to play a significant role in preparing Soldiers and units for deployment.

Following the successful completion of pre-deployment training for the 236th and 1022nd Engineer Companies, the last two units to receive pre-deployment training at Fort McCoy, the 181st is preparing to provide exportable training packages and capabilities to assist in the training of deploying units occurring at any of First Army's Mobilization Training Centers.

As part of its transformation, the 181st welcomed the arrival of 1st Battalion, 310th Infantry, an active-duty training battalion, which was based at Fort Bragg, N.C. Uncasing its colors at a ceremony at Fort McCoy in September, the battalion's primary area of focus will be marksmanship instruction on both individual and crew-served weapons incorporating both dismounted and mounted live-fire training. The 1st, 130th is well-known for its role in securing the bridgehead at Remagen, Germany in World War II, which helped secure the defeat of Hitler and the Third Reich.

Getting right to work, noncommissioned officers (NCOs) from the battalion immediately started planning the battalion's first live-fire training event focused on ensuring Observer-Controller-Trainers (OCT) familiarization and certification on some of the weapon systems they will be training.

Following a cross-country move, a transition from 1st Army Division East to Division West and within 30 days of uncasing the unit's colors, the 1st, 310th was putting Soldiers behind weapons and sending bullets downrange.

From Sept. 26-30 more than 50 OCTs with the 1st, 310th and 3rd, 340th Infantry Battalion honed their skills on Fort McCoy's machine-gun and demolitions ranges.

Following a full day of Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction on the M240B 7.62mm and M2 .50-caliber crew-served machine guns, NCOs and officers headed out to Range 2 where they conducted zeroing and live-fire familiarization from M1151 Humvees.

Following a day of weapons recovery, focus shifted from gunnery to basic demolitions skills. After several blocks of rehearsals, OCTs from 1st, 310th and 3rd, 340th got plenty of hands-on time tying basic demolition knots and were validated at priming and initiating simulated explosives.



Noncommissioned officers from 1st Battalion, 310th Infantry conduct zeroing procedures on the M2 .50-caliber machine gun at Fort McCoy. Part of the 181st Infantry Brigade, the 1st, 130th, a new unit to Fort McCoy, will conduct live-fire range training in support of mobilization training throughout First Army Mobilization Training Centers.



Sgt. 1st Class Jose Ramirez (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Palmer, of 1st Battalion, 310th Infantry, emplace and prime an M112 block of explosive at Fort McCoy. Members of the 1st, 310th conducted the training to certify the Observer-Controller-Trainers on basic demolitions skills in preparation for upcoming training missions.

The skills they learned were tested the next day at Range 17A where OCTs emplaced, primed and detonated different types of military demolitions charges. With several NCOs and officers never before participating in a demolitions range, the training proved extremely beneficial.

The 1st, 310th will support its first mobilization training mission later this month at Camp Blanding, Fla. Officers and NCOs from the unit remain excited about their assignment to Fort McCoy and their pivotal role in supporting the 181st's mission of training and validating deploying units.

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News

Wisconsin National Guard celebrates opening of Resilience University

By 1st Sgt. Vaughn R. Larson, Wisconsin National Guard

The celebration was ceremonial, but the reason for the celebration was significant.

“Today’s ceremony represents the symbolic opening of the Guard Resilience University (GRU) to all members of the Army National Guard,” Lt. Col. Andrew Ratzlaff, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 426th Regional Training Institute — which operates the Army National Guard’s very first resilience training facility — said Oct. 17.

Resilience in this sense is a method of coping with significant challenges, and was originally developed at the University of Pennsylvania to help teachers provide coping mechanisms to students. The U.S. Army began teaching resilience skills in recent years in response to an increased need for psychological aid among some Soldiers.

“What we’re doing here is adapting to change again,” said Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin. “This is not some namby-pamby feel-good kind of experience. This is about readiness; this is about defending this country. This is about maintaining the courage that you and I are privileged to share in this uniform.”

Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, director of the U.S. Army’s Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, praised the National Guard for embracing the concept of resilience and pursuing its own training facility, which officially opened at Fort McCoy in August and offers master resilience trainer courses for up to 60 students once per month.



The Guard Resilience University, a resilience training school located at the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 426th Regional Training Institute at Fort McCoy, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 17. Lt. Gov. Renee Kleefisch joined Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, director of the U.S. Army’s Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, and senior Wisconsin National Guard leaders in the ceremonial ribbon cutting. The Guard Resilience University is only the third resilience training facility in the nation. Photo by Allan Harding

“Is this part of pre- and post-deployment?” she asked. “No. Is this part of some kind of therapy? No. This is just making people more psychologically fit. Just as we would not wait until someone flunks a (physical fitness) test for them to become physically fit, why in the world would we wait until someone has some psychological crisis or some demonstration of bad coping to give them better psychological fitness?”

1st Sgt. John Peterson, from the Resilience Training Campus at Fort Sill, Okla., and a facilitator for the current master resilience trainer course at GRU, said that teaching resiliency skills is not an indication the Army is going soft.

“One of the first things I tell the Soldiers is resiliency is not leniency — it’s a process,” he explained. “The process is to make you better. Resilient is not a soft word, and they’ll find out when they go through this course. It’s mental agility, it’s strength of character, it’s understanding your values. There’s nothing soft in those words.”

Ratzlaff recounted how GRU began as a discussion in the back of the room where the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held.

“Little did we know the positive result we were about to set in motion,” he said, crediting Maj. Sylvia Lopez and Sgt. 1st Class John Battista with the success of the master resilience trainer courses offered at the 426th. “Without their tireless efforts, networking skills and long hours, we would not be standing here today.”

Lopez said that the ceremony represented the culmination of much hard work by many good people.

“You have to talk to a lot of different entities,” she said of raising the idea of a National Guard-operated resilience training facility to the National Guard Bureau. “They all want the same things, but you need them on the same sheet of music to move forward. Everybody wants the same thing — it’s just how do we get there?”

Lopez said the resilience skills taught in the course were used to realize establishing GRU in Wisconsin. Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch praised the end result.

“In the private sector we like to tell people that Wisconsin is open for business,” she said. “It is truly an honor today to show that, in one more regard, Wisconsin is open for business and advancement when it comes to the resilience of our National Guard.”

Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Kletzien of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, completed the level 1 master resilience trainer course in August.

“It’s something I believe in,” he said, “something I want to be a part of. Overall, it makes you a better leader. You’re able to look at situations differently and not jump to conclusions.”

Peterson said that having resilience skills helps him know he’s solving the right problems.

“It’s easy to go out there and bark out orders, but am I barking out the right orders to the right audience in the right way?” he said. “If I can be a more effective leader, using resilient skills, I can bounce back from anything that’s thrown at me. It’s a win-win — that’s why I love this program.”

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News

Projects position Lodging to better serve customers

Remodeling projects at the Fort McCoy Lodging facility in building 51 are better positioning the organization to serve its customers in the post-mobilization/demobilization era at Fort McCoy, said Michael Bayerl.

Bayerl, the general manager for Army Lodging at Fort McCoy, said the projects include a makeover of the Lodging lobby/reception area, the upgrading of several VIP suites and the addition of a fitness center and a business center.

“We really needed to do this to give the facility the amenities available in the private sector,” Bayerl said. “The remodeling of the lobby/reception area gives a great first impression of the facility to our guests.”

The lobby/reception area originally was a dayroom area for the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC) dormitory, Bayerl said.

During the mobilization/demobilization training era at Fort McCoy, the dormitory housed ARRTC students/Soldiers supporting that mission.

These personnel tended to have longer-term stays and provided consistent occupancy. Bayerl said the typical guests in the facility now stay two or three nights, and some for up to a week.

The remodeled lobby/reception area offers comfortable seating options, including cushioned chairs and sofas/couches, which provide options for guests to relax during the registration process or to use while waiting for transportation around Fort McCoy. The lobby/reception area also includes a small library and Wi-Fi.

Lodging guests also can use the area as an impromptu meeting area or to watch television. Conference rooms are available to guests for meetings.

Four VIP rooms are being remodeled to include new wet bars, upgraded private bathrooms, new carpeting, and furniture, etc., he said.

The fitness center and business center, amenities available at most commercial hotels, are scheduled to be completed for customer use by early 2012, he said.

“The remodeling and upgrading will give our customers a whole new lodging experience,” Bayerl said. “We’re positioning ourselves to compete in the current lodging environment.”

For more information about Lodging opportunities at Fort McCoy for authorized Department of Defense users, call Lodging at 608-388-2107/3638.



A view of the renovated Lodging waiting area in building 51. (Photo by Rob Schuette)

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News

NCO Academy instructor selected for Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

Story & photo by Rob Schuette, Public Affairs Staff

An instructor at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy has become the first Soldier at the installation to be selected for membership into the re-instituted Army Reserve Sergeant Major Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) at Fort McCoy.

The club reformed in 2010 at Fort McCoy after a five-year absence.

Staff Sgt. Conrad H. Nazar Jr., an Ohio native, received the honors in front of his co-workers and Family members during an Oct. 11 ceremony. He is the only SAMC member from the NCO Academy. Other organizations at Fort McCoy also have SAMC members. The award includes a medallion, which can be worn with dress uniforms in some instances.

Nazar is no stranger to receiving Army honors and has been recognized numerous times for his accomplishments, including the 2011 88th Regional Support Command NCO of the Year and, subsequently, the runner-up in the Army Reserve Best Warrior competition, held at Fort McCoy in June.

Sgt. Audie Murphy served in World War II as a Soldier and became the most-decorated veteran to serve during the conflict.



Command Sgt. Maj. M. Kevin Dubois (left), Noncommissioned Officer Academy commandant, presents the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club medallion to Staff Sgt. Conrad H. Nazar Jr., an academy instructor.

He served in nine major overseas campaigns, and received all the U.S. military awards for valor, including the Medal of Honor, as well as military award recognition from France and Belgium.

Command Sgt. Maj. M. Kevin Dubois, NCO Academy commandant, nominated and presented Nazar for entrance into the SAMC. The SAMC is a measure of recognizing NCOs who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and combat-ready Army. Members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers and concern for Families of Soldiers.

“The NCOs who are selected for induction into the club are the best NCOs the Army has to offer the force with a total-leader concept,” Dubois said. “The NCOs who are selected for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club have to go through a very tough selection board, where all board members have to recommend them for inclusion into the club. Staff Sergeant Nazar told me when he came out of the board room ‘this is the most-intensive thing I have ever done in my life.’ I am extremely proud of Staff Sergeant Nazar’s accomplishment.” Board members included command sergeants major at the command and staff levels.

Nazar keeps up his training for these awards even while meeting the demands of leading an NCO Academy class, which can run 12 to 16 days and include long hours, Dubois said. Nazar used his free time to improve his military and physical skills, while also meeting his Family responsibilities.

“None of this would have been possible without the mentoring and the counseling I’ve received in the military,” Nazar said. “The support of my Family played a big role.”

Nazar said he developed and molded his leadership style by compiling all the good traits of the military leaders he has had since he began his Army career in 1998.

“We, as Soldiers, need to honor our fallen brothers, remember their accomplishments, and help their legacy live

on,” Nazar said. “All the Soldiers were ordinary people who just did extraordinary things.”

Nazar’s wife, Dyan, also helped her husband prepare for the competitions and provides as much support to his career as possible.

She attends as many of the graduation ceremonies involving her husband’s students as her schedule permits.

She also helped him study and drilled him on the topics he would be questioned about during the board.

“I learned the meaning of ‘I will always place the mission first,’” Dyan said. “He realized his weaknesses and became stronger. ‘I will never quit.’”

Nazar showed this quality after he dislocated his elbow while going through the qualifying rounds for the 88th RSC Best Warrior competition.

He refused to let it knock him out the competition.

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News

Fort McCoy public website gets new look

Fort McCoy's public website has a new look and additional features designed to improve usability. The new website still can be accessed at the same URL <http://www.mccoy.army.mil> and went live on Oct. 19.

The recent site revamp merged content previously available on the installation's public and garrison websites and aims to provide visitors with improved ease of navigation, said Fort McCoy Public Affairs Officer Linda M. Fournier.

An enhanced navigation structure allows users to find what they need quickly and easily, Fournier said. New menu categories and layouts were incorporated, and the website's color scheme and format are in concert with current Department of the Army branding.

The site's index, or home page, is designed to serve as a portal to all other site content. Here, visitors are greeted by a scrolling message, a rotation of photographs depicting activities at the installation, a switchboard-type entrance point to commonly accessed content, links to the installation newspaper and Fort McCoy Area Guide, as well as a quick-reference section.

The website's main navigational menu is located at the top of the page and features drop-down lists of all submenu content, which gives viewers a clearer indication of all pages that exist on the site. Moving the main navigational menu to the top of the home page also allowed for the addition of a sub-navigation bar on the left-hand side of subsequent secondary pages. Secondary pages provide for a main content area as well as a right-hand column for contact information, links and other frequently requested content. Even the site's footer offers multiple points of entry and information.

The redesign is intended to ensure the site remains effective and user-friendly.

The website redesign was a community project led by the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office and the 106th Signal Brigade Network Enterprise Center at the installation. To find out more about Fort McCoy and browse the newly designed website, please visit <http://www.mccoy.army.mil>; alternatively, call 608-388-2407.

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SPOTLIGHT

Mission and Installation Contracting Command Installation Contracting Office

(Editor's note: This is the fourth Fort McCoy "SPOTLIGHT," a series about tenant activities at Fort McCoy and their missions.)

What is it?

The Mission and Installation Contracting Command's (MICC) Installation Contracting Office (ICO)-Fort McCoy provides contracting services to two major customers: Fort McCoy (including tenant organizations) and the 88th Regional Support Command (a 19-state region).

The Army Contracting Agency was restructured in fiscal year (FY) 2009 and became the Army Contracting Command (ACC). As of Oct. 1, the ACC, which is a subordinate of the Army Materiel Command, has command of six contracting centers, the Expeditionary Contracting Command and the MICC. The MICC is made up of seven regional mission contracting centers, nine mission contracting offices, and 27 installation contracting offices, including Fort McCoy.

Services offered by the MICC ICO-Fort McCoy include contract solicitation, award and administration for supplies, services and construction.

Of the contracts the MICC ICO-Fort McCoy manages throughout its entire region, custodial, grounds maintenance, waste management and snow removal are among the largest.



Members of the Fort McCoy community listen to Mary Purpus, director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Installation Contracting Office Fort McCoy, give welcoming remarks during the organization's open house Oct. 19. The office recently moved into a new facility, building 1108. (Photo by Geneve N. Mankel)

What have they done?

In FY 2011, the MICC ICO-Fort McCoy provided its customers with \$132 million worth of contracted services and completed more than 2,200 contract actions. These actions involve setup and delivery of new contracts and modifications to existing contracts.

At the installation, the more-significant contracts the MICC ICO has provided services for include minor construction (alteration, repair and renovation work) and base operations contracts.

What do they have planned?

The MICC ICO-Fort McCoy recently moved into a new facility, building 1108, and added three new positions. No additional growth is expected within its structure.

Why are they important?

The MICC ICO-Fort McCoy is involved in almost every purchase that occurs at Fort McCoy. The organization helps customers purchase goods and services through contracts that Soldiers need for their training. These purchases can consist of contracts for renovating facilities that Soldiers use, hotels to board Soldiers, food services for dining facilities and snow removal throughout the installation. The ICO also has oversight of the Government Purchase Card program.

Resources:

The MICC ICO-Fort McCoy is available at 608-388-3818. More information also is available through the Fort McCoy Corporate Network in the tenants section. Information about the ACC and MICC is available at www.acc.army.mil/micc/.

Training

RTS-Maintenance to offer expanded training opportunities

Story & photo by Rob Schuette, Public Affairs Staff

Additional maintenance courses, improved training areas and new off-site training opportunities are on the agenda for Fort McCoy's Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance this training year. Fort McCoy is the site of one of the four Army Reserve RTS-Maintenance facilities, with the others located at Fort Devens, Mass.; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Maj. Matt Jenkins, RTS-Maintenance commandant, said the organization will teach its signature Series 91 (heavy wheeled mechanic) Career Management Field, has two Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) courses, Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced, Air Conditioning (AC) 609 and Additional Duty Armor Course for the next training year. ASI courses include Wheeled Vehicle Recovery (H8) and Laundry and Electrical Systems Repair (H2).

“We offer year-round courses from the Noncommissioned Officer Education Courses, maintenance Military Occupational Skills training and ASI instruction,” Jenkins said. “Our higher headquarters, the 80th Total Army School System (TASS), uses assets at Fort McCoy and other Army Reserve sites.”



Students in a Regional Training Site-Maintenance class perform a protective maintenance check on a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Kelley, an RTS-Maintenance senior instructor, said the organization is acquiring a new, improved vehicle-recovery training site. The new facility, being constructed on North Post, will have a bigger work area and improved mire pits.

Kelley said this will allow better maneuverability for vehicle-recovery operations. The pits allow for realistic training scenarios. To recover a vehicle, the students must perform mathematic computations using vehicle weight, size and load capacity to recover any tactical vehicle using block and tackles and other recovery equipment. The students determine the safe and proper method to retrieve a mired (stuck) vehicle and then perform actual recovery operations.

A mire pit has the added benefit of being environmentally safe, Kelley said. Any spill is contained within the pit for easier containment and cleanup. This reduces the environmental impact. This training is highly valuable to successfully complete missions and in high demand in theatre.

In the past, RTS-Maintenance has been able to send Mobile Training Teams (MTT) to a unit's location to train. Staff Sgt. Daniel Schauf, RTS-Maintenance senior instructor, and other members of the RTS-Maintenance MTT staff have provided training in Pennsylvania, New York, Maine and Kentucky, as well as Puerto Rico.

Jenkins said, “We were chosen as the premier location site by the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command to create a much needed EPA certified air conditioning course called AC 609. Many Army units are requesting air conditioning repair and training as they use vehicles with this system during deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

“We’ve trained National Guardsmen and Reserve Soldiers at their unit training equipment sites, and also at Army Maintenance Support Activities, Equipment Concentration Sites, Maneuver Area Training Equipment Sites, and civilian shops, Jenkins said.

Schauf added, “We use the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command training video about air conditioning repair in various-sized vehicles, which was videotaped and assembled at Fort McCoy in April 2010, to support the training.”

RTS-Maintenance will be training active-duty Army personnel in the future, he said. This incorporates the TASS mission. Jenkins said RTS-Maintenance is using the more modern installation support facilities at Fort McCoy that have become more accessible since the last Base Realignment and Closure Action. This includes the availability of billeting in building 51, which is convenient for students in the RTS-Maintenance training courses.

For more information about RTS-Maintenance courses, call the organization at 608-388-3938.

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News

Engineer unit adds new sidewalk for youth to use at McCoy Child Development Center

Members of a Milwaukee-based Army Reserve engineer unit that trains at Fort McCoy on a regular basis showed their appreciation by adding 330 feet of sidewalk as part of a Troop Project to support the Child Development Center (CDC) facility.

Staff Sgt. Nate Wehmeier, the detachment commander/noncommissioned officer in charge for the 609th Engineer Detachment (Concrete), said unit members enjoyed adding the sidewalk to support walking and bicycling opportunities for the youth who use the facility.

“They can ride their bicycles or tricycles or walk safely down this area,” Wehmeier said. “It also will provide them with fitness opportunities.”

Unit members gained by having a chance to use and refine their building skills on a project that will benefit the entire Fort McCoy community, he said. They also have the pride of ownership as they know their work will support current and future generations who work, live and train at Fort McCoy, he added.



Engineer personnel from the 609th Engineer Detachment (Concrete) install a new sidewalk at the Fort McCoy Child Development Center as part of Troop Project work. (Photo by Rob Schuette)

Chelsey Smith, Fort McCoy CDC program director, said the project extends the sidewalk areas on the property and gives the youth more area to play on site. The fence on the playground also will be extended to make the area larger and will be constructed later with a private contract, Smith said.

“It will be a great place for the children to work on their gross motor skills and an additional play area to explore,” Smith said. “The work by the Soldiers is greatly appreciated.”

Larry Morrow, Fort McCoy Troop Projects coordinator, said the 609th added two extra days to its training cycle so unit members could complete the work.

“The 609th considers Fort McCoy its home away from home, so they want to do what they can do to improve it,” he said.

“Many engineer units that come to Fort McCoy take advantage of our facilities to conduct training,” Morrow said. “They all are looking for ways to give back to the installation, and when they get an opportunity to support us like this they are more than happy to use their skills to benefit the post.”

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News

Quarterly council meeting discusses safety topics, trends, opportunities

By Geneve N. Mankel, Public Affairs Staff

The Fort McCoy Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council/Community Health Promotion Council held its first quarterly meeting of fiscal year (FY) 2012 Oct. 18. Issues including fall/winter safety topics, safety trends and safety training opportunities were discussed.

Deb Heise-Clark, Installation Safety Office (ISO) safety specialist, discussed the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Fall/Winter Safety campaign. Materials including articles, posters and videos are available at the website <https://safety.army.mil/>. Campaign videos are being aired on Fort McCoy's TV 6 throughout the fall and winter seasons. Schedules are available on the Fort McCoy Corporate Network.

The ISO will be focusing on reducing the number of slips and falls during the winter season, said Randy Eddy, ISO safety manager. Organizations must ensure walkways to buildings are clear of snow and salt is used when needed. Personnel also should wear slip-resistant footwear.

Heise-Clark briefed Army military accidental fatality statistics for FY 2011. Although there were fewer overall fatal accidents than FY 2010, there was an increase in the Personal Injury, Other category. This category includes fatalities such as pedestrian, drowning and negligent discharge accidents. Privately Owned Vehicle accidents remain the highest source of accidental fatalities Armywide.

At Fort McCoy 255 traffic citations were issued in the last quarter of FY 2011, according to Capt. Rick Jackson of the Fort McCoy Police Department. Offenses included speeding, failure to stop at stop signs, driving with a suspended or revoked license and unsafe backing. "Be very careful when parking, moving or backing in the Exchange/Commissary parking lot," Garrison Commander Col. David E. Chesser said. "It is a very high-traffic area."

Jackson also said there were 41 traffic accidents, five of which involved deer strikes.

"The likelihood of striking a deer or a turkey during this time of year is high; pay attention and watch the sides of the road," said Chesser.

Another concern raised by Chesser was the gun-deer hunt in November. About 2,200 permits are issued for the season, with the peak hunter population occurring from Nov. 19-20.

"If you have no need to be in a training area during this time don't be there," Chesser said.

Hunters also must check the GAME Line daily at 608-388-4263, during the gun-deer season. Changes to hunting areas can occur daily, Chesser said.

Several training opportunities were highlighted. A Workers' Compensation for Supervisors training, available online at <http://media.cpms.osd.mil/icuc/supervisortraining/index.html>, covers actions to be taken when an employee is injured, authorizing treatment using a CA-16 form and continuation of pay. The training is required for all new supervisors and greatly recommended for all supervisors. Questions about the training or any workers' compensation issues can be directed to 608-388-2904.



Bob LoMastro (right), a contractor for the Wisconsin Safety Council, presents a demonstration about the properties of electricity on a job site. The demonstration was part of the instruction for an Occupational Safety and Health Administration 510 Standards for Construction Class held at Fort McCoy in September. (Photo by Rob Schuette)

Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) personnel are available to provide training to installation organizations. The fun, interactive training satisfies the yearly substance-abuse training requirement for civilian personnel, said Scott Zaehler, ASAP program manager. For information or to set up a training session, call 608-388-2441.

The Army requirements for Soldiers who ride motorcycles also will increase, said Eddy.

Military personnel can take the required Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses for free at Fort McCoy.

Completion of the Military Foundation Safety Experienced Rider or Military Sport bike Rider Course, will be mandatory for riders within one year of completing the Basic Rider course and every three years thereafter. Eddy wants riders to be prepared for the upcoming changes. There are no changes to motorcycle rider training requirements for civilians.

Eddy also said a new motorcycle course and classroom is planned for sometime next year. For more information, contact the ISO at 608-388-3403.

For more information about Fort McCoy safety, contact the ISO, or your organization's Collateral/Additional Duty Safety Officer.

The next Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Council/Community Health Promotion Council meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012.

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People

Disability speaker: All disabled workers want is a chance to work

All anyone with a disability wants is a chance to get a job and to prove his or herself, said Ken Melvin, a disabled Special Olympian.

Melvin was the guest speaker at Fort McCoy’s Disability Awareness Month luncheon Oct. 13. He brings his enthusiasm as an advocate for those with disabilities and recounts among his accomplishments his being in the Special Olympics program for the past 18 years and his service with the Indiana Army National Guard and deployment to Afghanistan.

“I speak at events like this throughout the country to spread the word about disabilities,” Melvin said. “If you want the best worker in the world, hire someone with a disability. They will work hard and never give up.”

Sue Bickford, the Army Reserve Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Director, said employees with disabilities in the Fort McCoy work force provide quality work and are an inspiration for all.

The EEO-sponsored event helps highlight the contributions and accomplishments of employees who have disabilities, she said.

Melvin said he turned to sports in high school as a way to overcome an intellectual disability.

The only time he wasn’t put in special classes in high school was when he was playing football.

He remains active in several sports: volleyball, basketball, golf and bowling, and recently accompanied the Presidential Delegation Team to the summer World Special Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Melvin said because of his disability he had trouble managing his personal finances and was thousands of dollars in debt before he joined Special Olympics and got the training he needed to function as a contributing member of society.

People with disabilities aren’t afraid to work, but often are unemployed or underemployed. Melvin related the story of a woman who was hired to simply provide a company with the handicapped employee it was required to have and not allowed to do any work.

“She wanted to learn, and began to learn to do more and more tasks,” Melvin said.” Eventually, the company put her in charge of training new employees, including those who didn’t have disabilities.”

Several of the employees without disabilities decided they didn’t have to listen or take instructions from her and were fired for walking out of the sessions, he said.

Employees with disabilities operate with a kind of warrior ethos “I will never quit,” he said. Disabled employees are much less likely to miss work, or, if they do take a day off schedule it far in advance for an official reason, not just to take the day off for recreation.

Melvin also used the never-give-up spirit to embark on a military career — like his father who served on active duty for 30 years — against all the odds.

With a Family that included children, Melvin knew the active Army wasn’t the right circumstance or the right fit for him. He decided on the Indiana National Guard, but had to take and pass the entrance exam.



Ken Melvin addresses the audience at the Fort McCoy Disability Awareness Month observance Oct. 13. (Photo by Rob Schuette)

“I found out the test could be taken multiple times so I found a recruiter who would help me schedule the testing and help me learn what I needed to learn to pass,” he said. “I wound up taking the test seven times before I passed it.”

Melvin served a year in Afghanistan, which he called a very interesting place, and professed to missing Forward Operating Base Salerno.

Statistics indicate people with disabilities who work have better health and can expect a longer life and greater satisfaction with that life, Melvin said.

There are about 2.5 million people in the U.S. who have a physical or intellectual disability, including many Soldiers who have served overseas.

“A person with disabilities can do a lot,” he said. “Don’t underestimate a person with a disability. They always can continue to learn.”

For more information about Disability Awareness Month or EEO issues in the Fort McCoy work force, call 608-388-3106/3107.

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People

Fort McCoy team finishes 3rd in Reserve Mixed category at Army Ten-Miler Race

The Fort McCoy Army Ten-Miler team placed third in the Army Reserve Mixed category at the Oct. 9 Army Ten-Miler event, held at the Pentagon.

The team's four-hour, 47-minute and 59-second (4:47:59) aggregate time was 10:05 behind the Pacific Pride Eha, which clocked an aggregate time of 4:37:54. The team aggregate score was determined by adding the times of the top four finishers, which must include at least one female.

Staff Sgt. Richard Mancl (88th Regional Support Command) paced Fort McCoy runners with a time of 1:09:10. He was followed closely by Sgt. 1st Class Dean Peloquin (86th Training Division (Operations)) in 1:11:17 and Maj. Thomas Akerlund (Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison (HHC, USAG)) in 1:11:30. Master Sgt. Misty Brown (HHC, USAG) with a time of 1:16:03 and Staff Sgt. David Zeichert (86th) in 1:19:20 completed the team's runners.

Akerlund, the team captain, said the highlights of the event for the Fort McCoy team included finishing just 52 seconds behind the Road Warriors of Fort Knox, Ky., which had a time of 4:47:07, and finishing 9:22 ahead of the Howling Coyotes, a team from Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., which posted a time of 4:57:21.

Thirty-eight teams competed in the Army Reserve Mixed category. A total of 597 teams competed in the overall event, in which Fort McCoy placed 122nd. Team results of the 2011 Army Ten-Miler are available at the website <http://www.armytenmiler.com/Results>.

After the tryouts at Fort McCoy in late March and early April, Akerlund said Fort McCoy's team set up a Facebook "group" to keep each other informed about what they were doing and upcoming races they were competing in.

"Our group runs usually consisted of track workouts since we could squeeze them in at lunch time," he said. "Distance runs usually were done on our own due to everyone's differing schedules."

One exception were the runs scheduled by the post, including the Wellness Fair 5-K in May and the Summer Sizzler 5-K run in June.

The group discussed different running techniques. Akerlund said as more of an informal runner he appreciated getting tips from some of the more-serious, competitive runners in the group about proper nutrition, including having sufficient carbohydrates to finish a run. They also added tips about experiences they had gained while running. In return, he subscribed to a runner's magazine that had good tips that he would share with the group.

"Fort McCoy has done a great job of representing itself at the Army Ten-Miler, and I was proud to be a part of the team," Akerlund said. "Being part of a team puts a bit more pressure on the runners to go faster."

The runners and the spectators make for a great event. The runners included wounded warriors, including those who are amputees.

"I found that very motivating and encouraging to see firsthand these individuals who worked beyond their disability," Akerlund said. "I know it took many months, if not years, of therapy and training to reach the point where they were able to run the Army Ten-Miler."



Fort McCoy's Army-Ten Miler team before the big race in Washington, D.C. From left are: Master Sgt. Misty Brown, Sgt. 1st Class Dean Peloquin, Maj. Thomas Akerlund, Staff Sgt. David Zeichert and Staff Sgt. Richard Mancl. (Contributed photo)

Members of the Fort McCoy team were able to concentrate their efforts on the event because of the support of the installation and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Recreation and Welfare (DFMWR) commercial sponsorships, he said.

The hotel, food and travel arrangements to and from Fort McCoy were all taken care of, he said. About the only thing the team had to do was to get to the event on time. Akerlund said navigating through the huge number of runners and spectators — about 30,000 people competed and a similar number of spectators enjoyed the race — the team made it to the race’s starting line with plenty of time to spare.

“The experience to see the other competitors and to run past some of the best-known monuments in Washington, D.C., was exceptional,” he said. “We really didn’t have time during the race to do sightseeing.”

Competitors had the option to spend time at their own cost in Washington, D.C., either before or after the race, to see the sights.

Pam Budda, Fort McCoy team tryout point of contact for the DFMWR, said the preliminary plan for next year is to hold the tryouts later in April to give potential runners more time outdoors to prepare for the event and to be in peak racing condition. In addition, at least two spots will be open for next year’s team as Akerlund is PCSing (permanent change of station) to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and Brown is retiring.

Commercial sponsors for the event, included USAA, Case Construction, Logistics Health Inc., Mathy Construction, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, EconoLodge, Precision Stitch & Ink, Best Western Sparta Trail Lodge, and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. No federal endorsement is implied.

For more information about the event, call 608-388-6461.

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News

Program helps integrate people moving to McCoy

The Fort McCoy Army Community Service (ACS) Center Relocation Program provides various resources and services to help smooth the transition for relocating Soldiers, civilians, and Family members to and from Fort McCoy.

First and foremost in helping to provide a smooth transition is for units to appoint sponsors to help prepare and welcome incoming personnel. ACS provides sponsorship training on a quarterly basis and also provides information for the online eSponsorship Application & Training. All commanders, supervisors, and sponsors are encouraged to take one or the other, or both. The online training can be accessed at <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/ESAT> and a certificate can be printed upon completion.

ACS also will provide welcome CDs containing numerous resource materials that sponsors can send along with their welcome letter to incoming personnel. Or, sponsors can e-mail a request that ACS send out the informational CD.

Upon arrival, commanders/supervisors should ensure that new personnel inprocess with ACS. At that time, a needs assessment will be conducted to see what types of assistance the newcomers still might want and referrals will be made accordingly.

This same type of assessment also can be provided to anyone leaving the installation and PCSing (permanent change of station) to a new duty station. There are many relocation-related resources available.

A welcome tote of informational materials is provided to permanent-party military and Department of the Army civilian employees. It contains information about the installation, local communities, and things to do in Wisconsin as well as relocation-related materials.

New personnel are encouraged to attend the Fort McCoy Newcomer Orientation that is held the second Wednesday of each month. In addition to a command welcome and hearing from various Fort McCoy agency representatives about the programs and services that can be provided to them and their Family members, they will get a tour of the installation conducted by Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Office personnel.

Those who arrive before their household goods do can check-out lending closet items such as air mattresses, tables, chairs, kitchen items, vacuums, etc.

These items are available from the lending closet for 30 days with extensions made on a case-by-case basis for those arriving from overseas.

The ACS staff also sends letters and questionnaires to newly arrived foreign-born spouses seeking input about their relocation experiences.

Returned questionnaires help ACS determine what additional support can be provided in addition to Western Technical College campus listings, English Language Learners classes or information about citizenship.

ACS staff also likes to send letters of support to waiting Families who remain in the area while their sponsors are away either at a long-term school, deployed, or PCSed to another installation.

The only way this support can be provided, however, is if their sponsor outprocesses through ACS to let the organization know they will be away. ACS also would like to hear from the Family or sponsor upon their return or if the Family decides to relocate to the new duty station.

Sponsorship class schedule

Sponsorship training is held for one hour on a quarterly basis at Fort McCoy's Army Community Service (ACS) Center, building 2111.

Training is from 10-11 a.m. on the following dates: Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011; and in 2012; Tuesday, Feb. 7; Tuesday, May 1; Tuesday, Aug. 7; and Tuesday, Nov. 13.

Sponsorship is a commander's program that assists Soldiers, civilian employees and Families during the reassignment process, and improves unit or organizational cohesion and readiness. Training topics include: Regulations and Forms; Program Entitlements; Types of Sponsorship; Sponsor Responsibilities; Commander's Responsibilities; and e-Sponsorship.

For more information or to register, contact ACS at 608-388-3505. Registration is requested at least one week prior to the training. Administrative time to attend these classes may be given at a supervisor's discretion.

In addition to the ACS Relocation Program, there are many other programs and agencies on the installation that can assist in meeting the relocation needs of both in and outprocessing personnel.

For more information, call ACS at 608-388-2359/3505.

(Submitted by Army Community Service.)

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About Post



181st/Garrison demobilization

About 20 Soldiers from the 181st Infantry Brigade and a few from Fort McCoy’s Garrison listen to an outprocessing briefing at Fort McCoy’s Soldier Readiness Center. The Soldiers demobilized as part of the phase out of the Fort McCoy mobilization program, which concluded Sept. 30. The 181st served as the training organization for the mobilization program at Fort McCoy. ranges/facilities.

Photo by Tom Michele



Volleyball match

Teams compete in a volleyball tournament held at the Rumple Fitness Center. The winning team for the Oct. 13 event was the “Balls Deep” team.

Photo by Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation



Basketball League

Members of the Eagles (white uniforms) and Seabees compete for a rebound in a noon hour Fort McCoy basketball league game. The Seabees took a three-point lead at halftime in the Oct. 18 game and held on for a 37-33 victory.

Photo by Rob Schuette

Small-Bore shoot

A participant competes in the Fort McCoy Children’s Small-Bore Rifle Shoot at Fort McCoy’s Sportsman’s Range Oct. 8.

Photo by Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation



Fire safety open house

Curt Ladwig, a Fort McCoy Fire Department inspector, observes Mary Turner (top) train on the use of a fire extinguisher. Fort McCoy Fire Department firefighters (bottom) demonstrate vehicle extrication techniques. The activities took place during an Oct. 12 open house at the Fire Department, held to observe Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15.

Photo by Rob Schuette

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News

Exchange unwraps holiday gift exchange policy, extended hassle-free returns

FORT MCCOY (Army and Air Force Exchange Service) — Recent industry statistics show that 3 to 4 percent of all retail sales are returned for refund or exchange.

To alleviate the worry about what can be returned and when, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is giving the gift of extended hassle-free returns for the holidays.

For items purchased between Nov. 1-Dec. 24, Fort McCoy shoppers can return or exchange those items through Jan. 31, 2012.

If a shopper requests a refund with a sales receipt, a cash refund will be made if the original purchase was made in cash.

If the original purchase was made by credit card, the refund can be credited to the customer's same credit card. If a customer requests a refund without a sales receipt, the refund amount is loaded onto an Exchange Merchandise Card.

“The Fort McCoy Exchange's return policy is second to none,” said the Exchange's Store Manager, Neal Smart. “With our amended plan during the holiday season, we have the processes to ensure it's the right color, look or fit.”

In addition to returns on locally purchased items, shoppers can return Exchange catalog or Internet orders to the Fort McCoy Exchange for a full refund on the product. If the return is due to an error on the Exchange's part, shoppers will be reimbursed the standard shipping charges in full, Smart said.

“We take our commitment to serving those who serve very seriously,” said Smart. “Exchange shoppers give the best gifts because we ensure that Soldiers get exactly what they want every time.”

For more information about the Exchange and its history visit the website www.shopmyexchange.com.

For more information in the Fort McCoy community, call the Exchange at 608-269-5604, Ext. 101 or 608-388-4343.

The Exchange has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandize and services and generating nonappropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

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News

IMCOM AFAP update: Progress on top priorities, new process requirements

By Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Installation Management Command, Commanding General

SAN ANTONIO — September’s Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) review session showed progress on the top-priority 2011 AFAP Conference issues, including survivor identification cards and child-care fees.

The session also identified adjustments to AFAP that will better align the process with the Army’s cost culture.

Every month I meet with subject-matter experts from across the Army to review the status of issues submitted through the AFAP process to determine if they are achievable. This review session focused on the 16 new issues identified by AFAP delegates during the February 2011 AFAP Conference in Arlington, Va.

The top issue identified to senior Army leaders during this year’s conference was issue No. 667, which recommended that ID cards of surviving children with an active-duty sponsor annotate both active-duty and Survivor status.

Surviving Family members have been required to present both an active duty ID card and Survivor status documentation to receive Survivor services.

The requirement for additional documentation often resulted in emotional stress for Survivors, as it caused them to relive their loss.

To address this concern, the Department of Defense Human Resources Activity has authorized the use of a “dual status” over-stamp on ID cards of surviving Family members. Business processes now are being put in place to ensure correct implementation throughout the Army.

Another AFAP success story is the work toward resolving issue No. 671, which seeks to cap military child development program fees at 25 percent of a Family’s total income. The Army Child and Youth Fee Policy will require that Families who pay more than 25 percent of their monthly income for childcare be immediately informed of the financial hardship waiver process and provided information on how to apply at registration. The projected date for this policy change is Nov. 1.

To track this or any other issue, visit the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/> and search by issue number or key word.

While we are making progress on some issues, such as 671 and 667, others are unachievable due to current fiscal constraints. As our funding shrinks, we have to be even better stewards of our resources and ask ourselves three fundamental questions: Do we really need it? Is it worth the cost? What are we willing to do without?

These questions must become part of our culture as we move forward in this period of reduced resources.

Therefore, the Army now requires that new issues introduced into the process be accompanied by the estimated cost and a recommendation to offset the cost.

We strongly encourage those who have suggestions for improving the quality of life for the Army community to continue to submit new issues, but with an eye toward how their suggestions can be paid for.

Our bottom line is clear: the Army’s commitment to Soldiers and Families endures. How we get to that bottom line changes with our resources.

AFAP continues to play a vital role in identifying what is important to the Army community, which is critical to how we decide to make the most of our resources.